

B O R O U G H O F C O W B R I D G E.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH - 1965.



COWBRIDGE BOROUGH COUNCIL.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH 1965.

To The Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors,  
Cowbridge Borough.

I have the honour to present the Annual Report for 1965 prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Welsh Board of Health Circular 1/66.

The report deals with the birth rate, death rate and other vital statistics of the Borough compared with the country and the County of Glamorgan. It will be noted that the Borough birth rate is slightly lower and the death rate considerably lower than the country as a whole. The small population of the Borough and the effect of a small number of births or deaths on the statistics do not present a true picture of the position.

The report also deals with environmental matters which have a bearing upon the health of the inhabitants, including the Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act 1963. It will be noted that all the public services are available throughout the area and there is no atmospheric pollution.

I wish to thank the Mayor, Aldermen, Councillors and Officials for their co-operation during the year.

N. K. CONTRACTOR.

Medical Officer of Health.



# SOCIAL CONDITIONS.

Cowbridge is an ancient Charter Borough, the present Charter having been granted in 1888.

Sited on the main London-Fishguard road it was for many centuries a posting station for travellers using this important route to and from Ireland. During the year the Glamorgan County Highway opened a new by pass which has relieved the town of most of the heavy through traffic. In some respects Cowbridge is returning to the quiet market town of former days.

Cowbridge has a goodly number of professional offices. Solicitors, Auctioneers, Architects and Accountants all have full time offices here. It is also provided with full time branches of the main bankers and a Crown Post Office.

The local Fire Service, Ambulance Station and Police Headquarters for the area are also sited in the Borough.

There are a small number of family factories in the town. Most of the inhabitants however find employment outside the Borough.

A list of the factories registered with the Council is as follows:-

1. Messrs. D. Brown & Sons Ltd., Printers.
2. Mr. A. Saunders, Boot Repairer.
3. Messrs. Arthur Jones & Sons Ltd., Builders Yard.
4. Messrs. Robert Thomas & Sons Ltd., do.
5. Messrs. Frank Sanders (Cowbridge) Ltd., Garage Proprietors.
6. Messrs. West End Garage.
7. Glamorgan County Council, Builders Yard.

## SECTION "A".

### STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

Area (in acres) ... ..	84
Number of inhabited houses according to the rate book	329
Sum represented by the penny rate ... ..	£169
Rateable value of the district ... ..	£40,943
Population (Registrar General's estimate)..	1,120

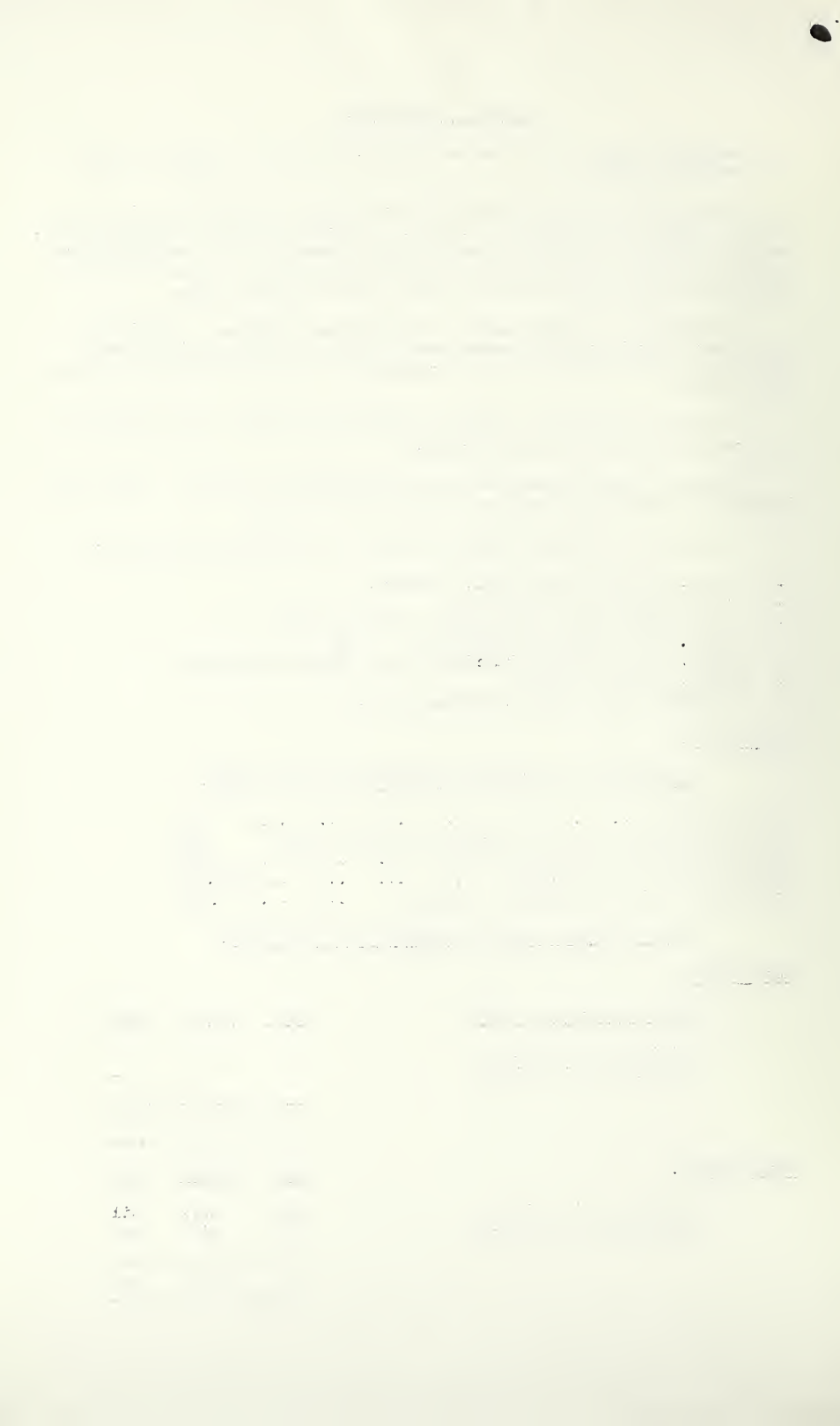
### EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS OF THE YEAR.

#### Live Births.

<u>Births Registered - 1965.</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
Legitimate live births	8	10	18
Illegitimate live births	-	-	-
	8	10	18

#### Still Births.

	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
Legitimate still births	Nil	Nil	Nil
Illegitimate still births	Nil	Nil	Nil
	Nil	Nil	Nil



Birth Rate per 1,000 Population.

Birth Rate Cowbridge Borough (adjusted)	16.23
Birth Rate for England and Wales	18.00
Birth Rate for Administrative County of Glamorgan (adjusted)	17.66
Birth Rate for Urban Areas in the Administrative County	17.75

Infant Mortality.

Number of deaths under 1 year of age	Nil
Infant mortality rate for Cowbridge per 1,000 births	Nil
Infant mortality for England and Wales	19.00
Infant mortality for Administrative County of Glamorgan	20.79
Infant mortality for Urban Areas in Glamorgan	22.38
Still Births (Nil)	Nil

Death Rate per 1,000 Population.

Death Rate for Cowbridge Borough (adjusted)	5.94
Death Rate for England and Wales	11.50
Death Rate for Administrative County of Glamorgan	13.58
Death Rate for Urban Areas in Glamorgan	14.16

Causes of Death 1965.

<u>Disease</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
Malignant Neoplasm, Lung, Bronchus	1	-	1
Malignant Neoplasm, Stomach	1	-	1
Vascular lesions of Nervous System	-	1	1
Other Heart Diseases	-	2	2
Other defined and ill defined diseases	-	2	2
Total	2	5	7

SECTION "B".

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES  
WITHIN THE BOROUGH.

(a) Medical Officer of Health.

Dr. N.K. Contractor M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H., Medical Officer of Health. (Also Medical Officer to the Cardiff and Cowbridge Rural District Councils and Medical Officer South East Division, Glamorgan).

(b) Public Health Inspector.

Hubert Thomas F.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I., Public Health Inspector. (Also Public Health Inspector, Cowbridge Rural District Council).



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### Committee Dealing with Health Matters.

The Monthly Meetings of the Council and Standing Committees both deal with health matters as the occasion demands.

### Ambulance Facilities.

The Area Ambulance Services are administered from the Ambulance Control Station, Hawthorn, Pontypridd, the telephone number of which is Pontypridd 3166.

In addition to the vehicles at the Ambulance Control Station, one ambulance is stationed at the Fire Station, Cowbridge and another at the Ambulance Sub-Station, Llanmaes Road, Llantwit Major. The County Council propose to construct an ambulance station at Cowbridge.

### Hospitals.

There are no hospitals or nursing homes within the area. Infectious cases are usually admitted to the Isolation Hospital at Cefn Hirgoed although under regionalisation specific cases might be admitted to other more convenient hospitals.

Medical and surgical cases are admitted to any of the Board's Hospitals in Bridgend and Cardiff.

Maternity cases usually enter the Bridgend or Cardiff Hospitals.

### Laboratory Facilities.

All pathological specimens are examined at the Ministry of Health's Public Laboratory at Cardiff and chemical analyses are carried out by the Cardiff and County Public Health Laboratory.

## SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

### Water Supply.

A hard water of high bacterial quality is provided by the Mid-Glamorgan Water Board throughout the Borough.

With one exception all properties in the Borough are connected to those mains.

### Swimming Baths and Pools.

There are no swimming baths in the Borough.

### Schools.

There are two schools in the area; the Cowbridge Grammar School and Y Bontfaen Elementary School.

Each school is provided with water closets and mains water. Both are connected to the Borough sewerage scheme.

Inspections were made of the toilets at Y Bontfaen School during the year. These were found to be clean.

### Rivers and Streams.

The River Thaw passes through the town and since its diversion in 1958 no flooding has taken place in the Borough.

The river is free from pollution.



### HOUSING.

- (a) New Council Houses. No new Council Houses were erected during 1965. The Council own land upon which they intend to erect further houses. The Council's estates remain as follows:-

Broadway	12
Borough Close	36
Cae Stumpie	14
Church Street & Southgate	3
The Butts & Bush House	4
Town Hall	1
Total	<hr/> 70 <hr/>

- (b) Private Enterprise. 5 houses were completed by private enterprise during 1965 and one was in progress at the end of the year and plans for a further house was approved.
- (c) Selection of Tenants. Tenants for Council Houses are selected by a points system and this works well. The home conditions of applicants are verified by a visit by the Public Health Inspector who reports upon the points awarded to the Council. The final selection is made by the housing committee.
- (d) Demolition or Closure of Unfit Houses. No demolition or closing orders were made during the year.

### HOUSING IMPROVEMENT GRANTS.

- (a) Discretionary Grants. The following grant was made during the year:-

<u>Property.</u>	<u>Synopsis of Work.</u>	<u>Grant.</u>
10 Westgate	Bathroom etc.	£380

- (b) Standard Grants. One grant only was made during the year as follows:-

3 Cardiff Road	Grant £85 5s 9d
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A total of 25 discretionary grants and 9 standard grants have been made under the Housing Acts.

### Plans.

The following plans were submitted for approval under the Building Byelaws:-

(a) New houses or flats	1
(b) Conversion of premises into houses	Nil
(c) New business premises	1
(d) Additions or alterations to houses or business premises	10
(e) Stores and garages	8
Total	<hr/> 20 <hr/>



PUBLIC CLEANING.

- (a) Street Cleaning. The main highway through the town is cleaned by the Glamorgan County Highways Department who employ a mechanical street and pavement sweeper for that purpose. The unclassified roads are cleaned by the Borough roadman. Street litter bins are provided at certain points in the town.
- (b) Refuse Bins. Almost all properties in the town are provided with properly constructed refuse bins. The Public Health Inspector takes informal action for the provision of bins as the occasion demands.
- (c) Cesspool Emptying. The one remaining property with cesspool drainage is cleaned by the District Council's vacuum cesspool emptier four times a year at the cost of the Borough Council. Arrangements are in hand to connect this house to the sewer.
- (d) House Refuse Collection and Disposal. All food premises have a twice weekly collection and private dwellings and other premises have a collection once weekly. This service is carried out by the Rural District Council at the cost of the Borough. Disposal is arranged at the District Council's central refuse disposal site at Llanharan.

SEWAGE DISPOSAL WORKS.

The Borough Council share a sewage disposal works with the District Council at the Lake Farm, Near Cowbridge (within the area of the Rural District). The maintenance of these works is supervised by the Rural District Council but the cost divided between the Borough and District Council. Recommendations to enlarge the works due to the increase in the number of houses in the joint areas were considered during the year and the consulting engineers were asked to prepare the necessary scheme.

ATMOSPHERIC POLLUTION.

The air in the Borough is relatively pure there being no factories or works within the area or in the neighbourhood.

CARAVAN SITES AND CONTROL OF DEVELOPMENT ACT 1960.

One caravan was licenced within the Borough during the year. The conditions were satisfactory.

DOMESTIC PESTS.

- (a) Rodent Control. Arrangements are made with the Rural District Council for the use of their rodent operative and the Borough Council pay an inclusive charge for his services and the material used. Warfarin is now exclusively used and has proved to be satisfactory and reasonably safe to use. There are no farms in the Borough.

Details of the works carried out during 1965 are set out below:-

Type of Property	Properties in Area	Inspections	Minor Infestations of rats and mice found	Treatments carried out
Local Authority	3	Nil	Nil	Nil
Dwellinghouses	313	47	6	12
Business Premises	103	18	13	13
Agricultural	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Total	419	65	19	25



DOMESTIC PESTS (CONT).

- (b) Other Pests. The Public Health Inspector gives advice where required on modern methods of eradicating domestic pests.

SEWERAGE AND DRAINAGE.

With the exception of the premises referred to under the heading "Public Cleansing" all dwellings and business premises in the Borough are connected to the Public Sewer. The Council decided to arrange for this house to be connected to the Public Sewer.

MILK SUPPLY.

All milk sold in the Borough is either Pasteurised or Tuberculin Tested. There are no registered dairies in the town but three retailers, with dairies in other districts, retail milk in the Borough.

FOOD HYGIENE REGULATIONS 1955.

Routine inspections are made of premises handling food for sale in the Borough and the attention of occupiers is drawn to any infringements of the Hygiene Regulations.

All the licenced premises in the town have satisfactory sanitation connected to the Public Sewer with arrangements for glass washing in or adjacent to the public bars.

ICECREAM.

No icecream is manufactured in the Borough. Seven retailers are registered with the Council and all sell icecream manufactured by one or other of the principal manufacturers. Five samples were taken during 1965, each was in Grade 1 and satisfactory.

INSPECTION OF MEAT AND FOODS.

There are no public or private slaughterhouses in the Borough. The four butchers purchase their supplies from a wholesaler or have their animals slaughtered at the Public Slaughterhouse at Bridgend where the Public Health Inspector of that area carries out an inspection and marks the meat before it leaves the premises.

On occasions meat is found to be unfit in butchers shops. A certificate for the meat condemned is given and arrangements made for its removal to a licenced dealer outside the area.

The amount of food condemned during 1965 is as follows:-

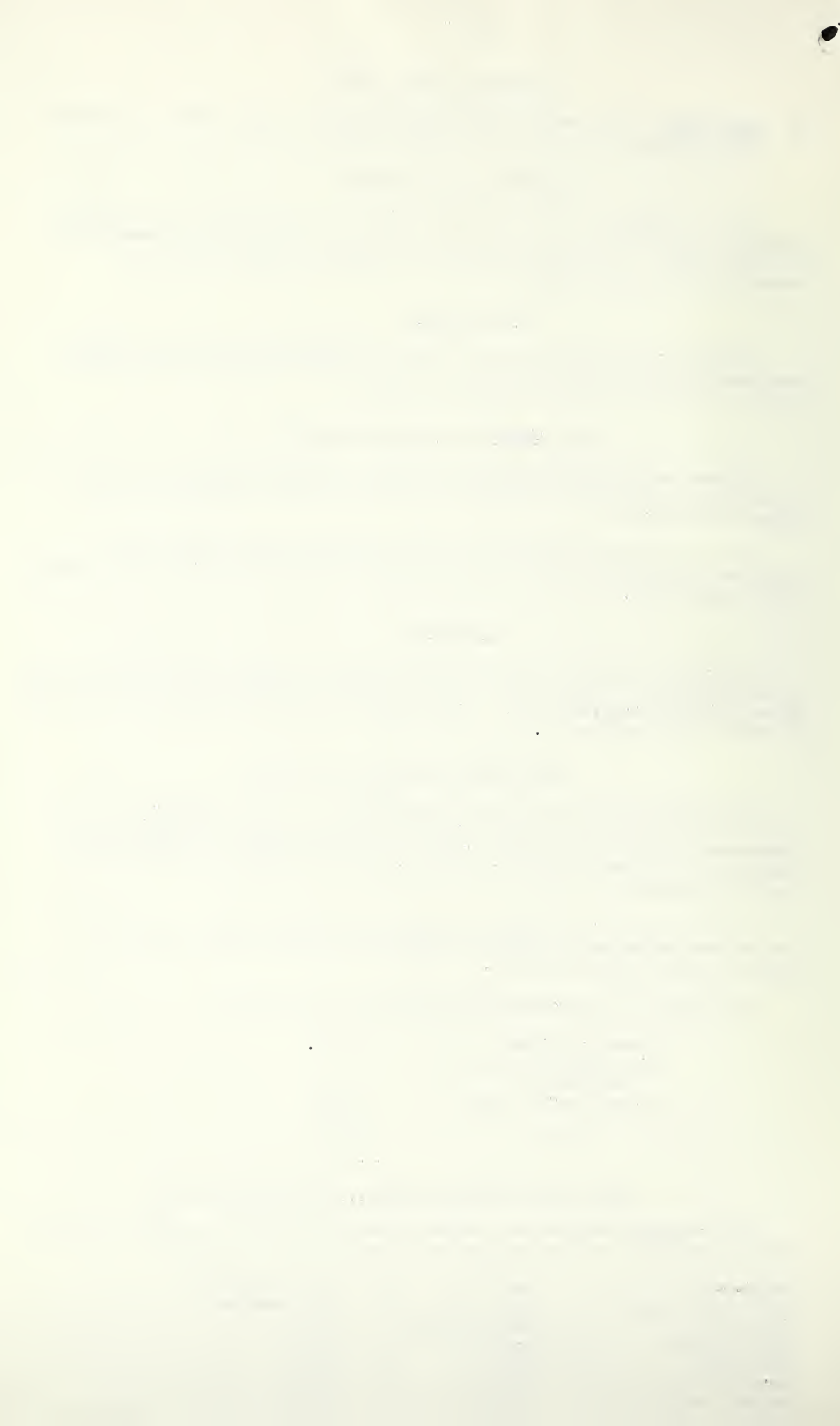
Frozen ox kidney	6 lbs.
Hind Quarter ox Beef	
(Home killed)	54 lbs.
Corned Beef (9 Tins)	6 lbs.
Total	66 lbs.

FOOD AND DRUGS ACT 1938: ADULTERATIONS ETC.

The following samples were taken in this area by Mr. W.D. Lewis the County Public Health Inspector during the year ended 31st December, 1965:-

Aspirins	1	Fish Paste	1	Soft Drink Powder	1
Cake Sponge Pastry		Flour	1	Soup (canned)	1
Mix etc.	3	Fruit(canned)	1	Spices	1
Cheese Spread	2	Margarine	1	Suet	1
Colouring	1	Milk	5	Syrup	1
Cream	1	Mustard	1	Vitamin Tabs. etc.	1
Dessert Powder	1	Sauces	2	Yeast	1

Total 28





# SHEEP AND CATTLE MARKET.

The Borough Council own a sheep and cattle market which is leased to two firms of auctioneers. Auctions are held on Mondays throughout the year and also on fair days and occasional sales of store stock. New cattle pens and covered sale ring were provided in 1957. The market has a public water supply and is connected to the public sewer. Electric light is available for loading of vehicles in darkness and a lorry wash and car park is sited at the rear of the market.

## SHOPS.

Improvement to the fronts of shop and office premises continues and in most cases this work has been carried out to fit in with the character of the ancient borough.

## CINEMAS.

There is no cinema within the Borough.

## OFFICES, SHOPS AND RAILWAY PREMISES ACT 1963.

This Act came into force on the 1st August 1964 and the position at the end of 1965 was as follows:-

### Registered Premises.

#### (a) Registered during 1965.

Offices	Nil
Retail Shops	Nil
Wholesale Shops, Warehouses	1
Catering establishments open to the public	Nil
Fuel storage premises	Nil
	<hr/>
Total	1
	<hr/>

#### (b) Registered at end of year.

Offices	17
Retail Shops	18
Wholesale Shops, Warehouses	1
Catering establishments open to the public	6
Fuel storage premises	Nil
	<hr/>
Total	42
	<hr/>

#### (c) Inspections carried out.

Offices	12
Retail Shops	12
Wholesale Shops, Warehouses	1
Catering establishments open to the public	3
Fuel Storage premises	Nil
	<hr/>
Total	28
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Total visits made	38
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(d) Persons employed.

Offices	66
Retail Shops	47
Wholesale departments, warehouses	17
Catering establishments open to the public	29
Canteens	Nil
Fuel Storage depots	Nil
Total	159

Males 50. Females 109.

(e) Exemption.

No exemptions were applied for and no prosecutions were made during the year.

(f) Lighting of Shops and Offices.

During the month of November a detailed survey was made at 11 premises to ascertain the standard of lighting. In the table below numerous readings were taken at different working points in the premises and the recordings divided into the various groups set out in circular L.A.9. In one case involving a bank which had recently been reconditioned the lighting was found to be in the region of 25 lumens and the bank authority called in a firm of consultants who advised on the increased lighting needed to bring it up to 35 lumens.

Less than 5 lumens	Nil
5-10 lumens	Nil
10-15 lumens	Nil
15-25 lumens	5
More than 25 lumens	15

PREVALENCE AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.

Infectious Diseases.

Eleven cases of Measles were notified during the year. All cases were nursed at home. One case each of Sonne dysentery and Scarlatina were notified and investigated by the Department.

Tuberculosis.

The position at January and December 1965 was as follows:-

	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Total
	M	F	M	F	
On register 1st January, 1965	3	1	-	-	4
On register 31st December, 1965	2	-	-	-	2

Removals from Register.

The one male and one female whose names were removed were recorded as "recovered".

Housing Conditions.

Both of the cases of tuberculosis are satisfactorily housed and it was not necessary to draw the attention of the Council to any matter during the year.



FACTORIES ACT 1961.

The report on the action taken in connection with Factories in the area is set out below:-

Premises	Number on Register	Inspections	Notices
Factories in which:- Section 1 (Cleanliness) ) Section 2 (Overcrowding) ) Section 3 (Temperature) ) Section 4 (Ventilation) ) Section 6 (Drainage of Floors) ) are enforced by the Council	1	Nil	Nil
Factories in which:- Section 7 (Sanitary Conveniences) only is enforced by the Council	6	14	Nil
Total	7	14	Nil

SUMMARY OF INSPECTIONS CARRIED OUT BY THE PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR 1965.

	Inspections	Preliminary Notices	Statutory Notices
Drainage and Sewerage	59	Nil	Nil
Meat, Foods and Food Premises	61	2	Nil
Milk and Dairies	Nil	Nil	Nil
Housing	67	3	Nil
Public Health Act	38	Nil	Nil
Infectious Disease	Nil	Nil	Nil
Factories and Workshops	14	Nil	Nil
Offices and Shops	38	Nil	Nil
House Refuse	64	Nil	Nil
Water Supplies	2	Nil	Nil
Works in Progress	92	Nil	Nil
Miscellaneous	52	Nil	Nil
Total	487	5	Nil

